

## **Majority Leader Frist's Closing the Health Care Gap Act<sup>®</sup>** ***--Health Professionals Voice Support<sup>B</sup>***

"We are pleased that Senator Frist continues to affirm his commitment to strengthen the initiatives and programs that have focused on reducing health disparities in our nation. His proposed legislative initiatives on critically-important programs like Title III and Title VII and the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities will facilitate contributions from the important partnerships he has formed with institutions like the Morehouse School of Medicine as we seek ways to improve health and healthcare in our nation."

**--Dr. James R. Gavin III**  
**President, Morehouse School of Medicine**

"The Morehouse School of Medicine is very pleased with the legislation of Senator Frist in addressing issues of minority health and health disparities. We are very pleased to join with him to improve healthcare for all Americans and ensure their quality of life. Senator Frist's record in these areas is solid and we look forward to his achievements in these areas."

**--Dr. Louis W. Sullivan**  
**Former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary;**  
**President Emeritus of Morehouse School of**  
**Medicine**

"We commend Senator Frist for his leadership to bring forth the legislation to re-authorize the Office of Minority Health. We also laud the pivotal role he played in the creation of the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health. The Morehouse School of Medicine is one of the first proud recipients of the EXPORT grants for health disparities. Senator Frist has been a friend to Morehouse School of Medicine, and his exemplary leadership affirms his commitment to the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities."

**--Dr. David Satcher**  
**Former Surgeon General; Director, The National**  
**Center for Primary Care**

<sup>A</sup>Eliminating the disparities in health status that exist for minorities demands a comprehensive, multi-faceted strategy. This strategy must include programs that eliminate barriers to culturally competent medical care; resources for research in diseases and conditions that disproportionately affect minorities; and support for medical education and training to increase the numbers of health care providers in underserved areas. The nation is fortunate to have Sen. Frist, a physician, leading the charge to address these daunting health care issues. In doing so, he is acting both on the Hippocratic oath he pledged to uphold as well as his continued commitment to foster a healthier America.<sup>@</sup>

**--Dr. John E. Maupin, Jr.**  
**President, Meharry Medical College**

AReducing health disparities requires leadership and resources to support the coordinated work of scientists, comprehensive health care teams, communities and people themselves. When it comes to health, we are all in this together and, as such, Senator Frist's leadership is important not only to disadvantaged communities, but to the nation as a whole.@

**--Dr. Reed Tuckson**

**Senior Vice President of Consumer Health and Medical Care Advancement, United HealthGroup; Former President Charles R. Drew School of Medicine and Science; Former DC Health Commissioner**

AI applaud Senator Frist for his support to increase health care quality and outcomes for minority communities. The growing Hispanic population will benefit greatly from new language services, new recruitment programs for minority students to go into the health professions, and leadership and cultural competency training for physicians.@

**--Dr. Elena Rios**

**President, National Hispanic Medical Association**

AThe Board of Directors of The Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeons support the efforts of Senator Frist to eliminate health disparities in minority populations. As a physician and a senator, he is uniquely positioned to make positive change in minority access to healthcare. We are certain that his determination and leadership will prevail. The Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeons is prepared to support and assist Senator Frist in this endeavor.@

**--Dr. Rene Rodriguez**

**President, Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeons**

AAetna has made eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in health care a high priority in our business and also the focus of our philanthropic activities. We view this as a quality of care issue and are collecting data that we can use to create interventions to help people at risk get access to needed care. This is a critical issue that affects the health of our nation. Therefore, we applaud Senator Frist's actions in spearheading a broad set of initiatives to address health disparities. His commitment to identify the barriers in care and develop a comprehensive plan will greatly improve the quality of life for all Americans.@

**BDr. John Rowe**

**Chairman, Aetna**